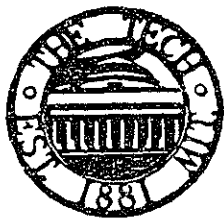


The Tech



VOL. LXXVI NO. 51

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1956

5 CENTS

Annual Holiday Gathering

Convocation Tomorrow

Christmas spirit officially comes to the Institute tomorrow with the annual all-Institute convocation. Classes will be canceled from 11 to 12 so that students may gather in Kresge Auditorium for singing, speeches, and food.

The MIT Brass Choir, under the direction of John Corley will play carols which have been arranged especially for this group and this occasion. For many it will be the first chance to hear the new organ, as David Johnson accompanies the assembly in caroling.

As usual, President Killian will offer a short speech of greeting, after which Father Shepard Hale Bishop, the Rector of St. Phillip's Episcopal Church in Manhattan, N. Y., the largest parish of this denomination in the world, will give the principle address. Reading the scripture will be C. R. Mertz, President of the MIT Women's Association.

More Christmas cheer will be found after the program as the Quadrangle

Club and the MIT Matrons conspire to provide hot wassell and doughnuts in the lobby.

A large turnout is expected for this year's last student gathering. Judging from past records the Christmas Convocation is the most popular of the year.

Choral Society Gives First '56-'57 Recital In Kresge, Jan. 12

The MIT Choral Society will appear in a concert—the first since their triumphant summer tour of Germany—on Saturday, January 12, at 8:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium. The performance will be conducted by Klaus Liepmann, Director of Music at MIT. The MIT Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band, John Corley conducting, will assist. The soloists, all of whom accompanied the Choral Society on the German trip, will be Helen Boatwright (soprano), Margaret Tobias (alto), Donald Sullivan (tenor) and Paul Matthen (bass).

The feature work on the program will be Haydn's Teresa Mass for chorus, soloists, and orchestra. The Choral Society performed the Mass at Frankfurt, Heidelberg, and Marburg last summer, and the work was enthusiastically received by German press and audiences. In addition, the group will sing Gabrieli's Jubilate Deo for double chorus, brass choir, and organ.

Also on the program is Handel's Organ Concerto No. 4 in F major. The MIT Symphony Orchestra will perform this work. David C. Johnson, MIT Organist, will be the soloist.

Tickets for the concert are now on sale in the Music Office, Room 14-N236, at \$1.00 each. All seats are unreserved.

75th Anniversary Issue

The Tech will publish its seventy-fifth anniversary issue this Thursday, Dec. 20. This twelve page number of the newspaper will review the happenings of the Institute as reported and analyzed in the pages of The Tech for seventy-five years.

There will be no The Tech this Friday, Dec. 21.

Scientists Plan H.S. Physics Course To Match New Approach To Nature



Some of the top scientists of the nation gather in the Sloan Building Penthouse for the planning of a high school physics curriculum. In the front row from the left are: Mrs. Fermi, Vannevar Bush, Jerrold Zacharias, and an unidentified participant.

Future Of High School Physics

In the words of Dr. Albert P. Little, Chairman, the objective of the Physical Science Study Committee is to "provide a physical science course in High School which is not just a mess of facts with their technological applications, but rather to provide a new course which will emphasize broad concepts of the physical world, the way a scientist looks at it, the phenomena he sees, and to show how he pulls out of his observations fundamental physical laws." The committee, which has been meeting intermittently since last August, points out that the fault of our High School science program is not so much the lack of teachers but the poor quality of the material which is being taught.

The mission of the committee is to change High School physics so as to stress the generality of nature's laws and point up the inter-influence of phenomena. It is hoped that a feeling for the physicist's inductive approach, as opposed to the deductive, will find its way into the student's mind. A review of modern physics, at the end

of the course, will be designed to illustrate the sense of doubt which hinders the scientists from applying accepted laws to new observations, and encourages him to search for new ones. The elegance of broadly applicable theories will nevertheless be emphasized.

Texts reflecting the new approach, films and monographs for specialized topics, and creative laboratories set up so that the student does not know the answer he is seeking will provide a concrete basis for the program. A suitable revision of the Physics College Board Exam is expected to help persuade High Schools to adopt this plan.

It is hoped that within two and a half years the new philosophy will have taken hold in the High Schools. Two obstacles to its acceptance immediately arise: first, the fact that science teachers themselves must be oriented toward the program, and second, that the depth of the subjects covered will require mathematical methods which are presently unavailable in the High Schools.

Hold 3-Day Meeting

In a three day conference beginning Monday of last week, members of the Physical Science Study Committee met at MIT to establish a definite plan for the revision and re-vitalization of High School science curricula.

The program advanced by the committee is concerned specifically with the teaching of twelfth grade physics and will be aimed at students in the top quarter of their class. Starting with a general discussion of the Universe, with emphasis on relative magnitudes and the meaning of physical units, the course would stress the scientist's phenomenological approach to nature. A study of light, its various effects, and the theoretical attempts at explaining them would lead into Newtonian mechanics. The gravitational field of Newton would then point toward an explanation of electrical and magnetic phenomena. The climax of the course is an introduction to modern physics, including a qualitative study of relativity.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Albert P. Little of MIT, the committee is made up of representatives from CalTech, Cornell, and the University of Illinois; prominent members of the MIT Physics Department, including Professors Frank, Zacharias, Friedman, and Ingard; as well as representatives of the National Science Teachers Association and the National Education Association. MIT President James R. Killian, Jr., Mrs. Laura Fermi, widow of the late physicist Enrico Fermi, and Dr. Vannevar Bush, former President of the Carnegie Foundation, are also working with the committee.

Share Driving For Safety - Med. Dept.

"Every year, MIT students contribute, sometimes generously, to the total of 38,000 deaths, 1,350,000 injuries, and \$4,500,000,000 lost in medical expenses, lost earnings, and insurance costs which result from traffic accidents," according to Dr. J. W. Chamberlain, of the medical department.

Dr. Chamberlain says that accidents occur particularly at this time of the year. He quoted Mr. Arthur S. Johnson, Director of the Institute of Safe Living of the American Mutual Liability Insurance Co., on twenty reasons why December is always the peak month for traffic accidents. These reasons include poor visibility due to longer hours of darkness, particularly during the rush hours, weather conditions, and fogging and icing of the windshield; more traffic due to holiday parties, teen-agers home from school, maximum number of registered cars and licensed drivers, more in-city traffic, and more pedestrians in the shopping areas; more drinking; slippery roads; faulty parking practices; more fatigue; more distractions along the road because of Christmas displays; and more passenger cars.

Dr. Chamberlain quoted published material to the effect that a life was lost every fifteen minutes and an injury sustained every thirty seconds; 10% of such injuries cause permanent disability.

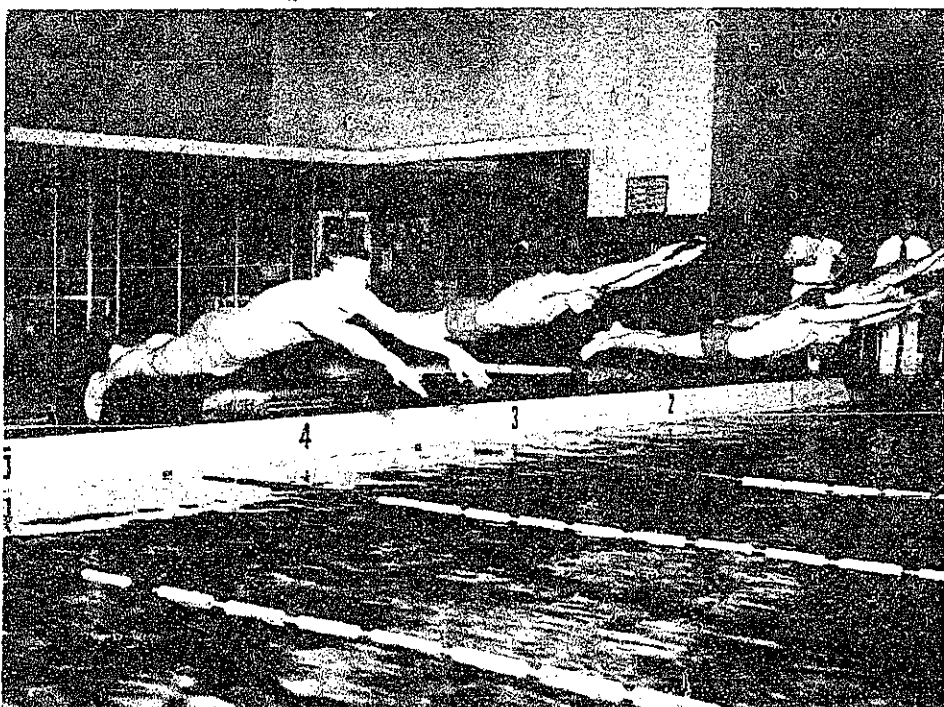
"The staff of the Medical Department believes that MIT's contribution to the toll of highway deaths, suffering, and destruction can be reduced if students are alert to the conditions listed above, drive at a rate of speed consistent with driving conditions, and avoid driving if tired . . . It is wise to have someone share the driving."

Swimming Team Swamps RPI By 60-26 Margin Medley Relay Record Set; Divine Edges Johnson

The MIT swimmers swamped RPI last Saturday in a meet marked steady improvement in all events. Four of the four men in the medley relay turned in their best times ever, combining to set a new school record of 24.0. Al Hortman '58, supposedly number 3 backstroke, led off with a sparkling 1:04.9. Lynn Jacobson '59 opened his breaststroke time 3 seconds to 1:13.8 and was followed by Cotter '57 who turned in his entry leg in 1:09.7. Captain Harry '57 anchored the relay with a style time of 55.6.

urray Kohlman '58 again came up to win the 220 and 440, lowering his best time in both events. Bobker '59 sprinted the last length of the 220 to take a close second, and led to a second in the 440. Bobker is an example of the depth of the team, putting this year's team on the winning side of the ledger.

Bob Jantzen '57 took second places in the 50 and 100, being just touched in both times. Bill Veeck '58, coming



Participants in last Saturday's swimming meet literally fly at the starting gun of the 100 yard freestyle contest.

out of a slump, took a third in the 100, dropping his time 2 seconds. Dave Bryson '57 and Dave Cahlander '59 finished one-two in the dive for the third consecutive meet.

The most exciting event of the day pitted Al Johnson '58 and Neil Divine '59 against each other in the race for the top backstroke position. At the end of 50 yards there was no question that Tech would have a first and second as the RPI men dropped 5 yards behind. At 100 yards the time was a fast 1:07.6 with Johnson holding a yard lead. Divine gradually made this up and the two were even going into the last turn. Pushing away slightly stronger, Divine pulled away in the last length to win in 2:23.2. Johnson's time of 2:24.7 was also excellent for this early in the season, indicating that there will be some more fine performances by Tech's backstrokers this season, especially with Al Hortman still not discounted.

The final relay went to MIT's freestyle (Continued on page 3)

The Tech

VOL. LXXVI Friday, December 14, 1956 No. 50

JOHN A. FRIEDMAN '57 Editor
 ROBERT G. BRIDGHAM '57 Business Manager
 P. William Daly '58 Night Editor
 P. John McElroy '59 Assistant Night Editor

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reviews

"Missalliance"

Misalliance, George Bernard Shaw's delightful satire on social mannerisms, was given a worthy audition by the MIT Dramashop December 14 and 15. The production was ably directed by Professor Joseph D. Everingham who also, in a change of program, appeared as the central character, much to the delight of the audience.

The play reconstructs an eventful day in the life of an upper middle class English family during the first decade of this century. The characterizations range over an unbelievable scale: a socially rebellious daughter with a passion for the unconventional, a death-taunting lady acrobat of questionable sanity, a vengeful crook with a truly mountainous persecution complex, etc. . . . Unmoved by all these disturbing personalities, the head of the family is certainly the dominant figure of the play; he takes all events in his ponderous stride.

The Dramashop production, starting off sluggishly with rather shallow acting, soon picked up momentum with the appearance of Elaine Brooks, as the daughter, and Joan Tolentino, as the mother. Miss Brooks gave a truly remarkable and lively performance. Her gestures and expressions, as well as her delivery, were highly in character. Miss Tolentino also did a commendable job. Prof. Everingham, as the father, turned a solid and well-written part into an unforgettable performance. His character exuded vitality, humor, and conviction.

Also entitled to high honors was Donald Silverman, '60, in the character role of the crook. His was a part that could easily have been overplayed and rendered ridiculous. He performed extremely well. Ruth Nason, as the lady acrobat, was every inch the haughty aristocrat and played creditably on the whole.

On the whole, it may be said that the production was skillfully presented and provided the audience with a particularly delightful evening.

—Warner Hirsch, '57

"Lust For Life"

It is indeed difficult to weld the facts of Vincent Van Gogh's life into a popular story. For the stream of sadness that runs throughout his life is not due to the bruises of ill-willed contemporaries—he was not the lone hero in the midst of villains. Nor was he the victim of adverse circumstances; he had opportunity enough to lead the normal, comfortable life of his Dutch countrymen. Vincent Van Gogh's personal tragedy is the artist's tragedy—he was a man with deep human feelings, attempting to pour out those feelings on the canvas in his unique fashion, and subsequently was left in an abyss of loneliness which eventually drove him to madness and suicide.

Irving Stone, in his novel based on Van Gogh's life, successfully popularizes the ideas involved, but too often leaves the characters themselves without flesh and blood. M-G-M, however, has achieved a nice balance between ideas and characterization in its screen version of Stone's novel, "Lust for Life," currently playing at the Kenmore Theatre.

Kirk Douglas, playing the leading role, strikes an amazing resemblance to Van Gogh. His acting also embodies a good deal of the artist's torrid spirit of expression that drives him on through hardship and disappointment. Pamela Brown vividly portrays Christina, the simple, sympathetic harlot who lives, laughs and suffers with Vincent during his Hague period. Vincent's brother Theo is played by James Donald, who turns in a convincing performance as the only person in Van Gogh's life who consistently offers real understanding and faith in Vincent's work.

The technical devices of modern movie-making are put to admirable use in meticulous reproductions of Van Gogh's paintings. The producers have also gone to great pains to reconstruct the landscapes, villages and people which played such an important part in his life. However,

Yet the important points are brought out graphically: The individualistic temperament which causes him to fly into angry revolt against copying plaster casts; his want of love which sends him first to harlots and then begging to the painter Paul Gauguin; his all-consuming desire to "tell the truth" which drives him, easel in tow, out into the brutal mists of Southern France—these are the elements which form an intense portrait of a great artist.

—Fred Epstein '57

profile

Dr. Isidor I. Rabi

Dr. Isidor I. Rabi is not an unusual or very scholarly looking person. He is middle aged, white haired and quiet. On sabbatical leave from Columbia University, he is spending five months in research here at MIT.

Doctor Rabi's discoveries in nuclear physics earned him international repute and a Nobel Prize in 1944. The Prize was awarded for pioneering studies of the magnetic moment of the atomic nucleus. The Columbia scholar stated specifically that it was for the "discovery of a magnetic resonance method for investigation of nuclear properties."

Although he is now with Columbia University, Dr. Rabi is no stranger to MIT. He was Associate Director of the Radiation Laboratory from 1940 to 1946.

Dr. Rabi thinks MIT's research facilities are among the very best available; but above all, he declares that "MIT has a very stimulating atmosphere." He hopes to accomplish a good deal in this atmosphere even though the period of his stay is so short.



Dr. Isidor I. Rabi visiting Institute Professor with Mrs. Fermi, wife of physicist Enrico Fermi.

helps, as I like to refer to them, will be primarily centered around the experimental and historical approach to science.

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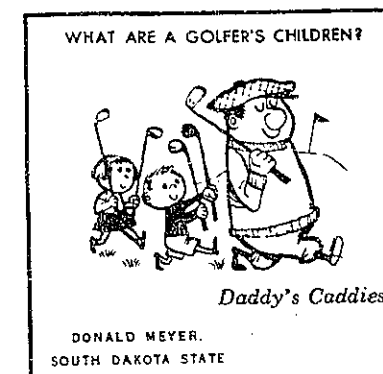
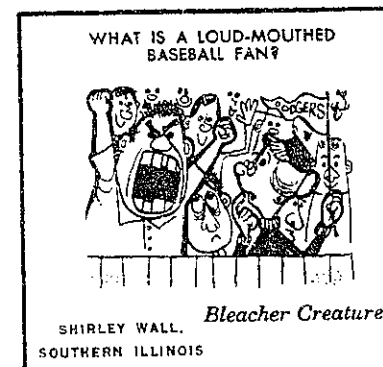
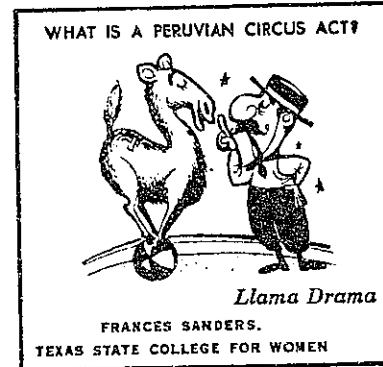
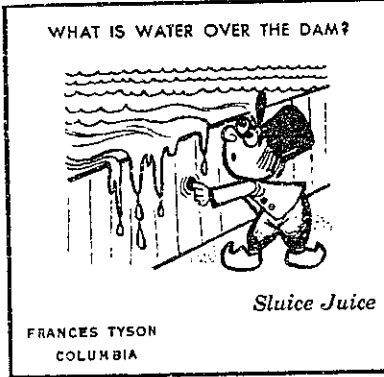
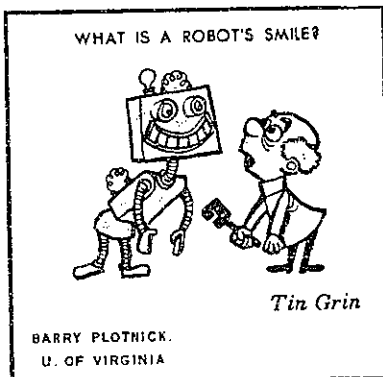
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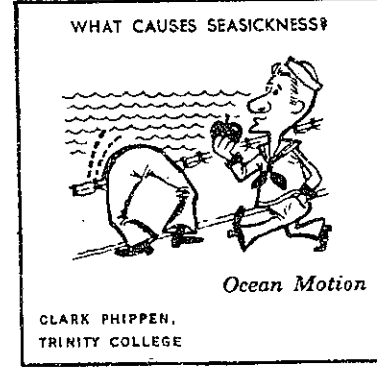
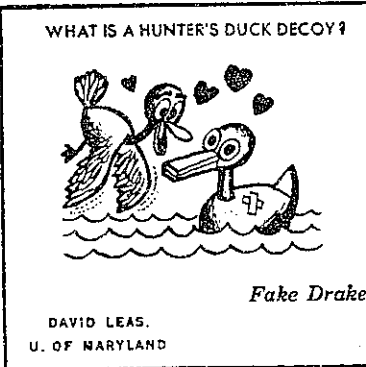
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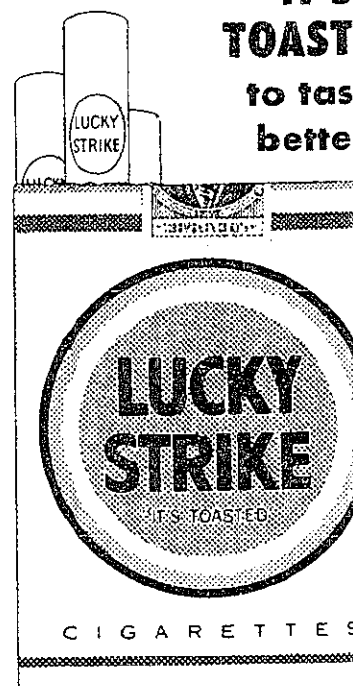


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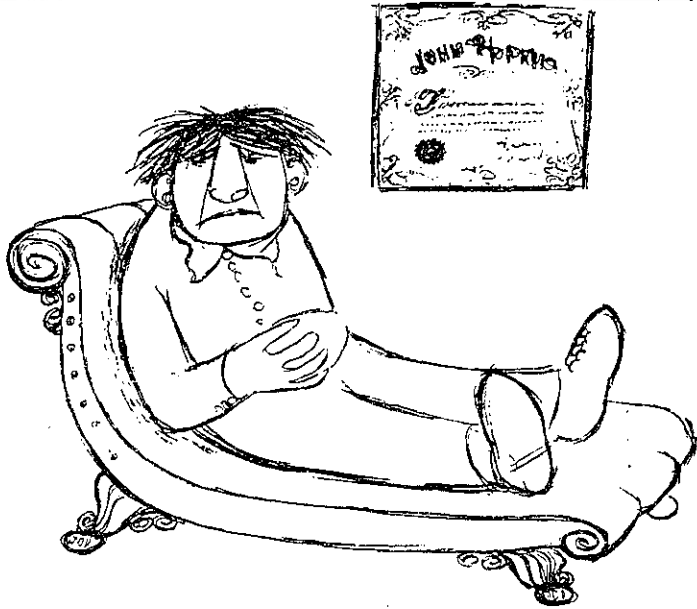
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Squash Team Splits
By Beating Adelphi

Splitting two matches over the past weekend, Tech's varsity squash team bowed 8-1 to Wesleyan and topped Adelphi 9-0. Handicapped by the loss of their two top men, Juan Hermosilla and Howie Cohen, the racket squad made a fine showing against a strong Wesleyan team, while overwhelming Adelphi.

Tom Thomas '57, moved into the number 1 spot, came through in fine fashion taking his Wesleyan match in five sets and winning easily at Adelphi.

SWIMMING

(Continued from page 1)

stylers Roger Kane '59, Jack Kossler '59, Veeck, and Duane in the season's best time of 3:50.0.

MIT 60—RPI 26.

400 yd. medley relay: 1, MIT (Hortmann, Jacobson, Cotter, Duane); Time: 4:24.0. (New MIT Record).

220 yd. freestyle: 1, Kohlman, MIT; 2, Brooker, MIT; 3, Yahn, RPI; Time: 2:25.4.

50 yd. freestyle: 1, Rosenfeld, RPI; 2, Jantzen, MIT; 3, Walston, RPI; Time: 24.8.

100 yd. butterfly: 1, Herter, RPI; 2, Gerchall, MIT; 3, Schein, RPI; Time: 1:09.1.

Diving: 1, Bryson, MIT; 2, Cahlander, MIT; 3, Gonzales, RPI; Points: 79.96.

100 yd. freestyle: 1, Rosenfeld, RPI; 2, Jantzen, MIT; 3, Veeck, MIT; Time: 56.4.

200 yd. backstroke: 1, Divine, MIT; 2, Johnson, MIT; 3, Dormer, RPI; Time: 2:23.2.

440 yd. freestyle: 1, Kohlman, MIT; 2, Brooker, MIT; 3, Mattern, RPI; Time: 5:20.3.

200 yd. breaststroke: 1, Herter, RPI; 2, Jacobson, MIT; 3, Cotter, MIT; Time: 2:41.9.

400 yd. freestyle relay: 1, MIT (Kane, Veeck, Kossler, Duane); Time: 3:50.0.

Springfield Routs Beaver Five;
Polutchke Tops MIT Scorers

Inadequate rebounding and a cold second half sent the young Beaver basketball team down to defeat at the hands of Springfield College last Saturday night 78-60, in their only weekend home game of the season. Bob Polutchko led the Engineers with 27 points on nine from the field and nine from the line, to up his season average to 20.0 points per game.

The losers started fast, and led most of the first half, building the margin to as high as eight points several times midway in the period. The lead changed hands for the first two minutes, but four free throws and two jump shots by Polutchko gave the Beavers a 14-8 lead with 14 minutes to go. Captain Mac Jordan hit a jump to further widen the lead, but Springfield bounced back with two quick set shots to close the gap again.

The Beaver offense rallied to the occasion, however, and both Lee Cooper '58 and Jordan found Polutchko free under the basket on consecutive plays, to take the margin back to eight.

Springfield then shifted out of their zone defense into a tight man for man, and held the Engineers scoreless while scoring eight to tie it at 20-20. The next eight minutes saw both teams go cold from the field, but MIT held a scant lead. With 1:52 to go in

the period the Maroons scored on a layup to take the lead for the first time since the opening minutes, but they never relinquished it this time. Suddenly they couldn't miss from the field and moved into a 35-28 lead at halftime.

In the second half they were held even for the first five minutes, but then broke loose and ran the score to 58-38, holding the Beavers to only 4 free throws in five minutes. The rest of the game was rather lackluster, until the last three minutes, when Polutchko again got hot and dropped through 11 points, but Springfield remained as sharp and kept the lead to over 15 points throughout.

Thursday the team will shoot for its fourth win against Suffolk on the home court.

MIT box score:

	MIT	gls	fts	pts
Muraskin	3	0	6	6
Repetto	0	0	0	0
Cooper	2	6	10	10
Rachofsky	2	2	6	6
McGinty	0	0	0	0
Jordan	2	2	6	6
Goldstein	0	1	1	1
Polutchko	9	9	27	27
Humann	1	2	4	4

Hockey Team Bows
5-1 To Hamilton Six;
Goodison Gets Goal

Playing their best game of the season, MIT's hockey team was beaten by a strong Hamilton sextet 5-1 at Hamilton last Saturday night. Tired by their long bus ride, the Engineer pucksters rebounded from a bad first period to dominate play for a good part of the second and third periods, only to bow to greater depth and a more experienced team.

Goalie Dick McCabe played a fine game in the nets and was aided on defense by the usual good play of Paul Ekberg and Bill Salmon. The first period these three shone especially in holding the goal hungry Hamilton team to only two scores. Hamilton added another in the second period as they scored with only seven seconds remaining in the period. MIT came back with a vengeance in the third period with Captain Bev Goodison batting in Tech's only goal at 3:32 on a pass from Salmon. Hamilton rebounded at this point to score two more quick goals to put the game on ice, but Tech fought it out to the final whistle.

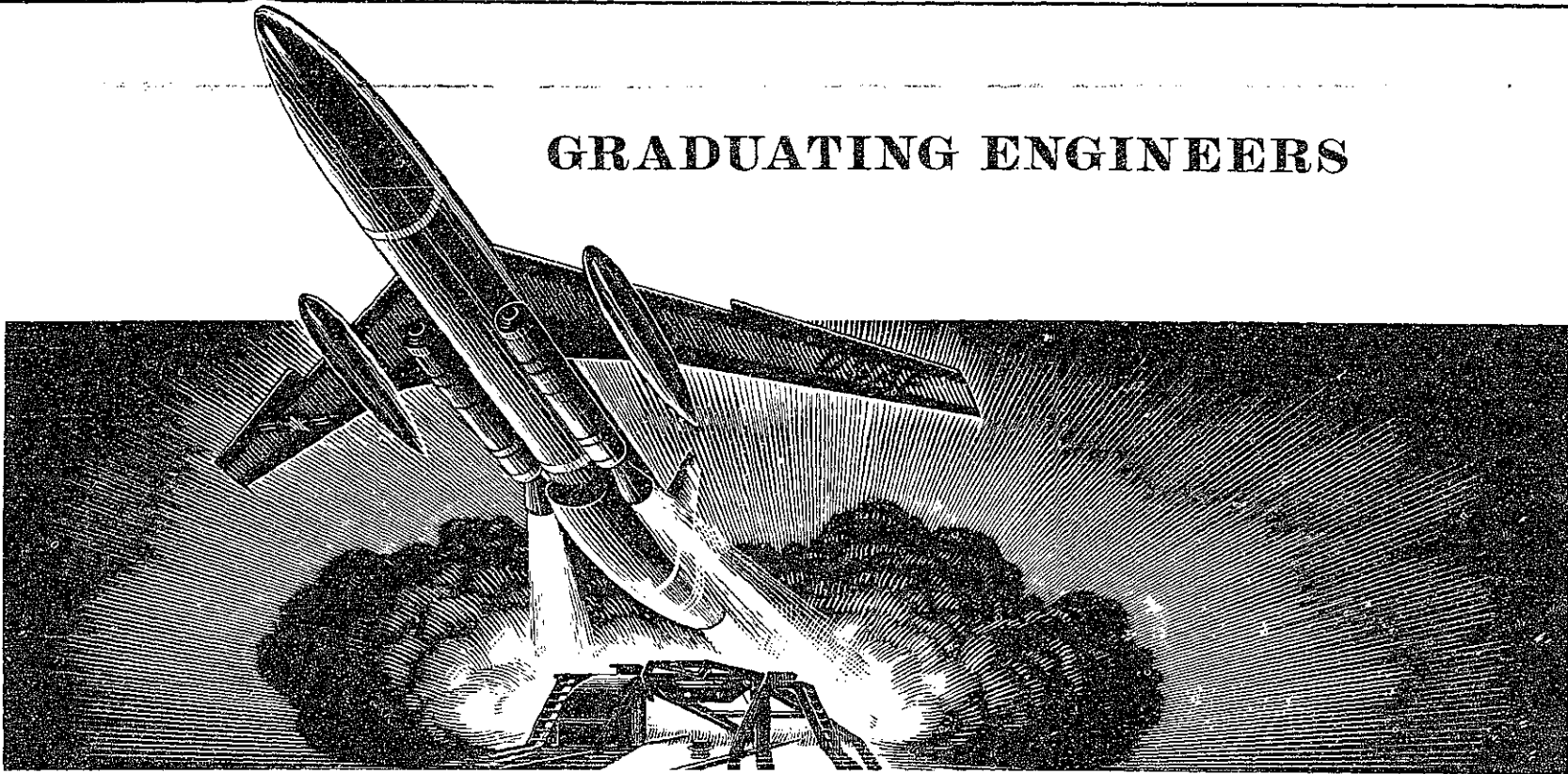
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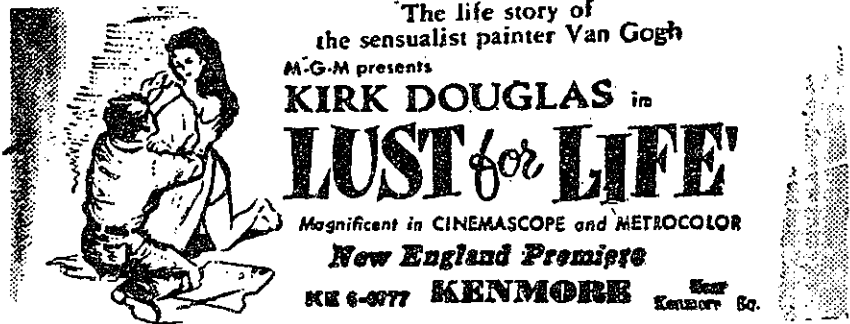
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or

(Who's Trying to Confucius?)

Many moons ago . . . around 600 B. C. . . there was a barkeep named Draw Wun in a little bistro off Times Square in Shanghai. Now this character's cashbox was loaded with loot, as Wun served up the greatest brew that side of the Yangtze.

"Murder," said Wun, one p. m. near 9 as the cats were clamoring for more beer, "I'm getting all shook up trying to keep gung-ho on the tap, take the cash, and figure out the change. I don't dig that math."

The beer Wun was crying in belonged to a calculus prof from the local U.



"Gad, Dad," sympathized the math man, "keep cool. I'll think of something. You can count on it."

So the prof rickshawed home and took a bath. Soon he was heard to shout, "Eureka!" (in Chinese, of course). He had solved the problem by inventing the abacus.

Next day he brought in a counting gizmo made of bamboo and cranberries. With this mechanical brain, Wun was able to introduce the time-payment plan, because one day a patron and Wun did this bit across the mahogany:

"I have a yen for two cold ones to go," said the customer.

"Sorry, friend, we don't accept Japanese currency," Wun lunged.

"I'm flat, cat," came the reply, "got a suggestion?"

Whereupon Wun played a few fast notes on his abacus, figured the terms of a loan for two beers and said, "Borrow one and carry two" . . . two terms still used in modern mathematics.

So you can see that's how Wun got a charge out of his abacus.

MORAL: When it comes to mathematics, you can count on an abacus if you want to. But when it comes to beer, figure on Budweiser. It's the best draught beer any side of the Yangtze. You can count on it.

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